



June 30, 2022

Dear Chair Tonko and Ranking Member McKinley,

The Plant Based Products Council (PBPC) appreciates the Subcommittee on Environment and Climate Change of the U.S. House Committee on Energy and Commerce holding a hearing on solutions for America's broken recycling system. PBPC represents companies across the U.S. that produce advanced renewable materials such as plastics, fibers, films, and intermediary chemicals from a variety of agricultural commodities. From manufacturing to circular end-of-life disposal through recycling and composting, bioeconomy products drive job creation and economic growth across rural, suburban, and urban communities.

PBPC supports efforts to improve the circularity of plastics, including moving to more sustainable materials, such as bioplastics that provide the functionality consumers need, and developing robust access to end-of-life options, including recycling and composting infrastructure. Because plastics play a critical role in many applications, it is important to focus on improving their overall environmental footprint, including increased use of renewable inputs. In addition, many underserved communities across the U.S., particularly in rural America, lack access to basic recycling and composting programs that complement other waste management infrastructure.

Legislation that helps provide more sustainable end-of-life options for plastics is needed. H.R. 8059, the Recycling and Composting Accountability Act (RCAA), and H.R. 8183, the Recycling Infrastructure and Accessibility Act (RIAA) are critical opportunities to promote the circular bioeconomy through waste management system improvements nationwide. H.R. 8059 and H.R. 8183 focus on foundational elements of a strong U.S. bioeconomy. The RCAA would improve data collection on recycling and composting system performance to promote more data-driven waste management infrastructure policies. The RIAA would establish pilot recycling programs in underserved communities across the country. Both bills would help improve the U.S. recycling and composting systems, which simultaneously supports the economic and environmental promise of the U.S. bioeconomy. Funding for composting infrastructure, as outlined in H.R. 1512, the CLEAN Future Act, is also critical to increasing access to recycling for organics and certified compostable materials, thereby reducing landfill methane emissions.

We look forward to continuing to work with the Committee to tackle these critical issues and move toward a circular economy supported by strong recycling and composting systems.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jessica Bowman".

Jessica Bowman
Executive Director



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